

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in Shorne Village Hall**

**PRESENT**

Miss P Clifton (Chairman)  
Mrs L McCluskey (Vice Chair)  
Mr R Theobald  
Mr J Bugg  
Mr C Rea  
Mrs S Lindley  
Mr R Hardy  
Mrs L Williams

**Apologies**

Mr R Lane

**In attendance**

None in attendance

**80. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021:** These minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mrs McCluskey seconded by Mr Theobald. All agreed.

**81. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda.**

No matters arising from the Minutes

**82. Shorne Common**

**a. Update on Adventure Trail**

North West Kent Countryside Project carried out work on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, clearing brambles and roots from underfoot on the new trail. There will be no extra charge if they need to return to finish the job

Ms Clifton has been in contact with Creative Play who have said that we could possibly have simple stepping logs and balance beams, providing they were below 0.6m in height. Above this height a safety surface must be installed. Ms Clifton has twice requested a site visit, but is now looking at alternative companies as they have not responded to this.

Mrs McCluskey is also looking into other companies.

**b. To formally approve expenditure of £270 to North West Kent Countryside Partnership.**

Ms Clifton asked for a proposal to spend £270.00 Mr Theobald proposed and Mr Hardy seconded. All agreed.

**c. Update on Tree Work**

Ms Clifton reported that Gravesham Borough Council have agreed for the tree work to be undertaken. Quotes have been received from three contractors, giving separate quotes for each of the 3 jobs. which Ms Clifton has circulated to all members. Ms Clifton asked for a proposal for NPC Tree Surgery to carry out all the work as they had provided the best quotes and we have been pleased with their work in the past. Mr Theobald proposed this and Mr Rea seconded, all agreed. A discussion was had regarding the benefits of retaining some of the larger branch cuttings, measuring approx.150ml in diameter and 1 metre in length, for use on the adventure trial and also as bug houses.

Ms Clifton was not aware of any update on the parking area remedial work from Balfour Beatty. It was noted that Gravesham Borough Council have given them permission to start the works on the affected trees.

**83. Chestnut Corner**

**a. Notice Board**

The new Noticeboard was installed in December 2021, using the existing posts. Sufficient ivy was cut back to allow erection of the noticeboard, however further work needs to be done to remove the growth.

Correspondence has been sent by the Parish Council to the owner of the nearby house saying we consider that the notice board is located outside the curtilage of their property, on publicly maintained land, and offering them the opportunity to cut back the ivy so that it is not encroaching on the noticeboard or posts. Or, if they would prefer the Parish Council to cut back the vegetation, then we will do so.

So far we have had no reply.

**b. Telephone Kiosk**

Ms Clifton reported that the light is finally working in the telephone kiosk. This was originally reported in February 2020, and we received communication in July 2021 saying it had been passed to the Reason For Outage Team.

**84. Recreation Ground**

**a. Licencing**

Ms Clifton asked if a letter has been sent to those who had been using the Recreation Ground for carrying out commercial activities, as requested at the last Footpaths meeting.

Mrs Poole confirmed that a letter had been sent on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 but she had received no reply.

**b. Tree Survey Report**

Ms Clifton reported the Gravesham Borough Council has given permission to carry out the required tree work as per the Arboriculture Report.

One of the recommendations from the Arboriculture Report was that the silver birch, which had extensive bleeding cankers on one of its stems, be re-inspected in Summer 2022. Mr Sephton has agreed to do this for a small fee.

It was also recommended that a sycamore be felled to the ground and so hopefully this can be done at the same time as any necessary work to the silver birch.

### **85. Overgrown Hedge, Tanyard Hill**

Mrs Poole confirmed that a letter had been sent on 26th October to No 2 Park Cottages, as agreed at the last Footpaths meeting. The vegetation has since been cut back. It now appears that the hedge at No 3 Park Cottages is intruding into the carriageway. Mrs Poole confirmed that this has now been reported to KCC, ref: 616984, as she had previously written to the owner.

### **86. Bus Shelters.**

Ms Clifton asked Mr Theobald if there was any update on estimates. It was agreed that Mr Theobald will provide Mr Bugg with some drawings by Full Council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Mr Rea enquired about the grants; Ms Clifton said we need to get estimates of the costs before we can apply for the KCC grant.

### **87. Footpath NS163/Crown Lane**

Mr Shove has cleared the surrounding vegetation and repaired the kissing gate. He also placed a concrete block to the side of the gate to stop the off-road bikes gaining access. Concrete blocks were also placed a little further on at the side of the footpath to stop bikes getting onto the field.

Unfortunately the concrete block next to the gate has now been moved, allowing bikes to regain access. Mrs McCluskey has been in contact with Mr Shove to advise him.

### **88. Village Hall Car Park Vegetation**

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Lawrence carried out the first maintenance at the rear of the carpark on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This will now be done twice a year.

### **89. Footpath NS156/Gravesend Road**

Ms Clifton has sent some photographs to John Pelham regarding possible encroachment. His reply was that the footpath is not affected with this as its definitive route is slightly to the east of the hedge.

### **90. Shorne Common Rough**

Mr Vilday has installed the sections of telephone poles where required, including a gap in Woodlands Lane where we had had reports of cars parking. Mr Vilday did not charge for this as the work had been delayed.

### **91. Crabbles Bottom**

#### **a. Meeting with Police**

Ms Clifton reported that on 10<sup>th</sup> January a meeting took place at Crabbles Bottom with the Police and Councillors from Shorne and Higham regarding the anti-social behaviour. The area is now being patrolled more frequently by the police and this is having a positive effect.

**b. Entrance to The Den**

Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy had a look at the entrance to where the offences are taking place, Ms Clifton reported that the wire fence has been knocked down. It was discussed if holly bushes should be planted but it was agreed that stock fencing should be re-installed and possibly CCTV signs to act as a deterrent. On checking the internet it appeared that it would be possible to use barbed wire Ms Clifton will get quotes to replace the fence..

**c. Management Plan**

Tom Gozzett is working on a management plan for possible adoption. The plan will be an agreed annual amount and Tom would then manage the Orchards, Meadows, Footpaths and Bridleway as he felt necessarily. Mr Bugg asked if this would include pruning the trees in the orchard as more harm than good can be done to ancient trees. Ms Clifton confirmed that the plan would not include any tree pruning and that she is hoping to soon meet with a gentleman who looks after a local ancient orchard.

**Any other business:**

**92. Matters raised by Members**

Mrs McCluskey reported that the sign in the play area she was waiting for at Michael Gardens has now been installed by Gravesham and says "Suitable for Under the Age of 12."

Mr Rea reported that the road sign at the lower end of Michael's Garden is missing and the posts that the sign were on has now been cut off, by possibly a resident, Mrs McCluskey will contact Gravesham Borough Council to report the missing post, as well as Kent County Council.

Mr Rea reported that there were at least 6 cars broken into the early hours of the Wednesday morning in Shorne West, these included 2 cars belonging to Parish Councillors.

It appears they are using a device scanner which opens the car, a gentleman on a push bike is seen on CCTV.

Mrs Lindley reported that Thi Chi is being advertised at the Scouts Hut and enquired if they are allowed to sublet the Scout Hut. Mr Theobald will draft a letter for Mrs Poole to send to them, advising them of the requirements of their lease, as he had been in previous correspondence with them regarding their lease. Mrs Poole will also look for more information on the lease.

Mrs Lindley reported that the path and verge at the southern junction of Court Lodge and Tanyard Hill have now been overtaken by vegetation. No decision had previously been made regarding the extent to which we believed it should be cut back

It was agreed that Ms Clifton would report the overgrown vegetation to KCC stating that it was causing a problem with sightlines for drivers when exiting Court Lodge

Mr Hardy reported that advertising boards for block paving have been seen again in Shorne West. Mrs McCluskey will look at these, and will advise Mrs Poole so she can write a letter again to the company.

Ms Clifton reported that the daffodils which were planted last November on the verge at the end of Court Lodge are coming through. Also the primroses which were planted on the island near the Yew tree.

Ms Clifton reported that on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Kent County Council put a sign on the dead tree on the verge by Court Lodge saying that they will fell the tree. After allowing 2 weeks from this date, KCC will then carry out the work within 2 months. They will then come back at a later to remove the stump.

Mrs Lindley reported that an unofficial dog waste bin was put on the Scammels in a flower pot. Ms Clifton had since removed this and will keep an eye to make sure that this does not re-appear. Mrs Lindley asked if this could be a good location for Gravesham Borough Council to put a dog waste bin.? It was noted that there is a bin a short walk away on the Common.

**93. Matters from other Committees being discussed for convenience**

**94. Matters raised by attending Parishioners**

None

**Any other business:**

**Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee meeting.** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.07

Signed Ms Clifton:..... Dated:.....